

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A method for ~~modulating~~ inhibiting activation of an NFkB signaling pathway in a cell comprising
contacting a cell having a TRADE polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 activity with a soluble form of a TRADE polypeptide in an amount sufficient to ~~modulate~~ inhibit the activation of an NFkB signaling pathway ~~associated with TRADE activity~~ in said cell,
wherein said soluble form of the TRADE polypeptide comprises the extracellular domain of a TRADE α polypeptide, said extracellular domain comprising a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide at least 98 % homologous to a polynucleotide encoding amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2, and
wherein ~~modulation~~ inhibition of NFkB signaling ~~modulates proliferation~~ inhibits apoptosis of said cell.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: an epithelial cell, a ductal epithelial cell, and a bronchial epithelial cell.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.
6. (Canceled).
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein [[]]said TRADE polypeptide consists essentially of said TRADE α polypeptide extracellular domain.

Claims 9-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge -C_H2-C_H3 regions of a human immunoglobulin.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the Fc portion of said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of γ 1, γ 2, γ 3, ϵ and α .

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α and Fc sequences.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein [[]]said TRADE polypeptide consists of a polypeptide sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence at least 98 % homologous to a polynucleotide encoding amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein [[]]said TRADE polypeptide consists essentially of a polypeptide sequence at least 98% homologous to a polypeptide ~~polynucleotide~~ encoding amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein [[]]said TRADE polypeptide comprises at least one of the domains corresponding to amino acids 29-63 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 72-114 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 114-139 of SEQ ID NO:2, or amino acids 137-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein contacting said cell with said polypeptide results in reduction of NFkB activity.

53. (Currently amended) A method for ~~modulating~~ inhibiting NFkB activity in a cell comprising contacting a cell having a TRADE polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~activity~~ with a soluble form of a TRADE polypeptide comprising the extracellular domain of a TRADE α polypeptide, wherein said extracellular domain is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) at 50-65°C to the complement of nucleotides 1-504 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said polypeptide ~~agent~~ inhibits the activity of a ~~native~~ TRADE α polypeptide in said cell ~~having at least 90% sequence identity to~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, such that NFkB activity in said cell is inhibited ~~modulated~~, and wherein inhibition ~~modulation~~ of NFkB signaling inhibits apoptosis ~~modulates proliferation~~ of said cell.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of: a lung cell, a liver cell, and a brain cell.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a lung cell.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a liver cell

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the cell is a brain cell.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the soluble form of the TRADE α polypeptide sequence is a TRADE α -Fc fusion protein.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein includes the hinge -C_H2-C_H3 regions of a human immunoglobulin.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the Fc portion of said TRADE α -Fc fusion protein is an isotype selected from the group consisting of γ 1, γ 2, γ 3, ϵ and α .

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein a spacer region of glycine and serine residues are incorporated between the TRADE α polypeptide sequences and Fc sequences.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Canceled)

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein contacting said cell with said TRADE polypeptide results in reduction of NF κ B activity.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said extracellular domain has at least 99% sequence identity to amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said extracellular domain comprises amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO:2.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said extracellular domain consists of amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said TRADE polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO: 2.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said extracellular domain consists of amino acids 1-168 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said TRADE polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO: 2.